

COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF  
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

Bill No. 07-09 As Amended

Introduced by: Council Members Guthrie, Mc Mahan, Shrodes and Chenowith

Legislative Day No. 07-07 Date: March 6, 2007

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Section 219-15, Billboards, of Chapter 219, Signs, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to permit the redevelopment of commercial property located in the Route 40 CRD with existing billboards under certain conditions.

By the Council, March 6, 2007

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: April 3, 2007

at: 6:00 p.m.

By order: Barbara J. O'Connor, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on April 3, 2007 and concluded on April 3, 2007.

Barbara J. O'Connor, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [BRACKETS] indicate matter Deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates Language added to bill by amendment. Language Lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill By amendment.

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**As Amended**

1 Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland, that  
2 Section 219-15, Billboards, of Chapter 219, Signs, of the Harford County Code, as  
3 amended, be, and it is hereby, repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as  
4 follows:

5 Chapter 219. Signs.

6 Section 219-15 Billboards.

7 A. General. Billboards shall be permitted in the General Industrial (GI)  
8 District only. New billboards may not be constructed within the Rte. 40  
9 CRD.

10 B. Location. Billboards shall not be permitted to be erected within 750 feet of  
11 any residence, historic structure or building as defined in §267-4 of this  
12 Code, public square or the entrance to any public park, public, private or  
13 parochial school, library, church or similar institution. All such signs shall  
14 be set back from the front property line the distance required for a principal  
15 building in the zoning district in which located. No billboard shall be  
16 permitted to be erected within 100 feet of a road intersection unless the base  
17 of the sign is not less than 10 feet above ground level or road surface,  
18 whichever is higher. No billboard shall be erected within 660 feet of any  
19 highway which is part of the interstate highway system.

20 C. Height. A billboard shall be no more than 40 feet in height from road grade.  
21 A variance in maximum height may be granted by the Board due to the  
22 uniqueness of the property.

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1           D.     Area. Billboards displaying poster panels may be single- or double-faced.  
2                 No structure shall contain more than [two] 2 faces showing in the same  
3                 direction. The [two] 2 billboards shall not exceed a combined total of 600  
4                 square feet. Painted bulletins shall be limited to an individual face, either  
5                 single- or double-faced, and shall not exceed a total of 900 square feet per  
6                 face.

7           E.     Illumination. Illumination shall be in accordance with the provisions of §  
8                 219-11.

9           F.     Removal of billboards in the Rte. 40 CRD. Existing billboards located on  
10                sites within the Rte. 40 CRD may remain and may be replaced subject to  
11                approval of necessary permits. Should the billboard be located on a site  
12                with an existing use, expansion of the use by more than 20% shall require  
13                the removal of said billboard. Should a billboard be located as the sole use  
14                on a site as of the effective date of the legislation, future development of the  
15                site for other permitted uses shall require the removal of said billboard.  
16                NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, THE OWNER OF A SITE  
17                UPON WHICH A BILLBOARD IS LOCATED ~~WITH AN EXISTING~~  
18                ~~USE~~ WITHIN THE RTE. 40 CRD, SHALL BE PERMITTED TO  
19                ~~OBTAIN A BUILDING PERMIT TO~~ REDEVELOP THE SITE FOR  
20                OTHER PERMITTED USES OR EXPAND THE CURRENT USE BY  
21                MORE THAN 20%, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

22                       (1)     THE SITE IS SUBJECT TO A LEASE WITH A

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1                   THIRD PARTY FOR THE BILLBOARD;

2                   (2)     THE OWNER SUBMITS TO THE ZONING  
3                   ADMINISTRATOR AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE  
4                   OWNER HAS MADE GOOD FAITH EFFORTS  
5                   TO TERMINATE THE BILLBOARD LEASE,  
6                   WHICH EFFORTS HAVE FAILED;

7                   (3)     THE LEASE TERM SHALL END NO LATER  
8                   THAN 2 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE  
9                   ISSUANCE OF THE BUILDING PERMIT FOR  
10                  THE PROPERTY AND THE OWNER PROVIDES  
11                  EVIDENCE OF TERMINATION OF THE LEASE  
12                  TO THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR;

13                  (4)     THE OWNER SHALL PROVIDE TO THE  
14                  ZONING ADMINISTRATOR A BOND IN AN  
15                  AMOUNT EQUAL TO 115% OF THE COST TO  
16                  REMOVE THE BILLBOARD AT THE END OF  
17                  THE LEASE TERM; AND

18                  (5)     THE OWNER SHALL RECORD, AMONG THE  
19                  LAND RECORDS OF HARFORD COUNTY,  
20                  MARYLAND, A PERMANENT EASEMENT FOR  
21                  THE BENEFIT OF THE COUNTY TO PERMIT  
22                  THE COUNTY TO ENTER UPON THE

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1 PROPERTY TO REMOVE THE BILLBOARD IN  
2 THE EVENT THE BILLBOARD IS NOT  
3 REMOVED WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET  
4 FORTH ~~HEREIN; AND HEREIN.~~

5 ~~(6) A USE AND OCCUPANCY CERTIFICATE FOR~~  
6 ~~THE STRUCTURE ON THE SITE SHALL BE~~  
7 ~~ISSUED AFTER THE BILLBOARD IS~~  
8 ~~REMOVED.~~

9 G. In the event that a billboard ceases to be used for advertising or falls into  
10 disrepair for a period of 3 months, the billboard will be deemed abandoned.  
11 Solicitation for advertising to be displayed on a billboard does not constitute  
12 advertising. Once a billboard has been abandoned, the Zoning  
13 Administrator shall notify the owner of the property and the owner of the  
14 billboard that the billboard has been abandoned and must be removed. The  
15 owners shall be responsible for taking all necessary steps to dismantle the  
16 billboard and remove and dispose of all visible remnants and materials from  
17 the subject parcel 90 days after notification by the Zoning Administrator  
18 that the billboard has been abandoned

19 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted, that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days  
20 from the date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE: June 10, 2007

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*The Council Administrator does hereby certify that  
fifteen (15) copies of this Bill are immediately available  
for distribution to the public and the press.*

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*Council Administrator*

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HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 07-09 As Amended

Brief Title Bill Boards – Removal

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

**CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT**

Barbara J. O'Connor  
Council Administrator

Date April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

**ENROLLED**

Bill B. Boniface  
Council President

Date April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

**BY THE COUNCIL**

Read the third time.

Passed: LSD 07-10

Failed of Passage: \_\_\_\_\_

By Order

Barbara J. O'Connor  
Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

Barbara J. O'Connor  
Council Administrator



**BY THE EXECUTIVE**

Dorothy L. Craig  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date April 11, 2007

**BY THE COUNCIL**

This Bill No. 07-09 As Amended having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on April 11, 2007.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2007

Barbara J. O'Connor  
Barbara J. O'Connor,  
Council Administrator

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